(iii) Government of India has constituted a Central Advisory Committee to suggest measures to be taken for eradicating child prostitution. The Plan of Action prepared by this Committee has been finalised and the Implementation Machinery is being set up.

(iv) In order to protect children from illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances, a scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations for prohibition and drug abuse prevention is also being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Drop-out rate of SC and ST Students

3761. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the drop-out rates of SC/ST students at all stages of education;

(b) if so, the State-wise position at present; and

(c) the details of steps taken to reduce the rate of drop-out at primary state in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No, Sir. In fact there has been an overall decrease in drop-out rates of SC and ST students at all stages of school education.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have taken a large number of measures to reduce drop-out rates amongst all students of primary classes including SC/ST students. These include District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), community mobilizaton, improvement of school infrastructure through annual and five year plans and through Operation Blackboard Scheme, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals), various incentive schemes such as free text books, uniforms, scholarships etc., establishing and strengthening of institutions of teacher education, free education etc.

National Commisson for Children

3762. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Children has been duly constituted and has started functioning; if so, the composition thereof and the infrastructure created for its effective functioning; and

(b) whether it is a fact that National Policy for children remains on paper only; if not, the steps taken so far to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The proposal for setting up of National Commission for Children is under consideration of the Government of India.

(b) the National Policy for Children was formulated by the Government of India in 1974 and its provisions are being implemented by the Government of India in accordance with the objectives and aims of the Policy.

Some of the Schemes being implemented by the Government of India in pursuance of the National Policy for Children are:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services;

(ii) District Primay Education Programme;

(iii) Integrated Programme for Street Children;

(iv) The Programme for Juvenile Justice; and

(v) Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

Funds for Ocean Development Projects

3763. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pelased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been allocated for Ocean Development Projects during the last three years;

(b) whether there have been irregularities and misappropriation of funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The funds allocated under both Plan & Non-Plan